

BERKSHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



JANUARY 2014

**The Minutes of the 18th Committee Meeting of BeMBA.
Held at Sindlesham Court on Thursday 23rd January 2014**

There were present

W.Bro: G. Seeman PGJD, DPGM	Rep: Friendship & Care 1555 (Chairman)
W.Bro: D. Fisher. PAGDC	Rep: Jersey Mark 257. (Secretary)
W.Bro: J. Stocker PAGSwdB	Rep: Friendship & Care 1555 (Treasurer)
W.Bro: A. Hardiman PGStdB	Rep: Leopold RAM 235
W.Bro: E. George PPGStdB	Rep: Windsor Castle Mark 519
Bro M. Perry	Rep: Wilder Mark 1868
W.Bro: J.E. Maguire ProvGJW	Rep: Installed Mas/Com1330
W.Bro: R. Head PM	Rep: Caduceus Mark 1631
W.Bro: D. Watmough	Rep: Porchester Mark 27
W.Bro: D. Lambton PPGInspW	Rep: Charles Wilkinson Mark 1657

The Chairman W.Bro: Graham Seeman opened the meeting at 7.35pm and welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

W.Bro: H. Ranscombe PPJGW	Rep: Jersey RAM 257
W.Bro: G. Barlow PPGJD	Rep: Cranley Mark 1616
W.Bro: J. Payen PGStB	Rep: Porchester RAM 27, Hungerford Mark 1342

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 17th Committee meeting held at Sindlesham Court on Wednesday 8th May 2013 having been circulated to all of the members. With one addition to the list of apologies, were proposed as a true record by W Bro Ray Head and seconded by W.Bro John Maguire and confirmed by the brethren present and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that would not covered by the agenda and updates.

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TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer, W.Bro John Stocker, gave a report of the financial position of BeMBA. The effect of the 2017 Festival continued to show with income down to £606. Annual expenditure was £4,755 giving a yearly deficit of £4,149. Our General Reserve has been reduced to £49,786.39p. This was in line with expectations and the committee agreed that it was more than sufficient for our immediate needs. The Chairman, W. Bro Graham Seeman, spoke of the purchase of a wheel chair for use at Sindlesham and the circumstances surrounding the need for it before going before the committee but that officers were contacted and approved. The accounts would be finalised and audited by the examiners, W.Bros Ray Head and Jim Payen.

HOLIDAY SCHEME

The Secretary reported that he did not have any requests or applications at present, but that last year we were able to help a brother with respite care for his wife. He wanted to leave this as an agenda item to remind brethren that it is available and to make sure that those in need could be identified and helped.

GIFT VOUCHERS

The Secretary, W. Bro David Fisher, said that to date he had 82 known widows on his list and that the question was do we continue to give the gifts and if so the amount. (Presently £25). W. Bro Ray Head said that in his experience there were often older masons who were probably worse off than some of the widows and that we should not forget them. A discussion ensued on how best to identify them so that help could be given. It was agreed that there is difficulty in this but Almoners and BeMBA reps should be vigilant in identifying members in distressed circumstances so that help could be forthcoming. The Secretary said that he would stress this point in his January update to reps. The problem of notification of deaths of brothers and their respective widows becoming known to the Secretary would send out a list of widows to reps and work with the Provincial Almoner. They would also work on producing a card which would have relevant contact details which could be sent to widows for both their and relatives use. It was proposed by W.Bro Ray Head and seconded by W. Bro Doug Watmough that we should send the vouchers as usual and the amount remains at £25. This was unanimously agreed by the committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm with thanks to all for their attendance and interest.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 22th May 2014.

David N.Fisher

Secretary

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